

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and  
Human Services, and Education  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-309, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and  
Human Services, and Education  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Thank you for your steadfast support of our local public broadcasting stations. Under your bipartisan leadership, Congress has for many years consistently provided resources to support local public broadcast stations through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Ready To Learn grant program, and the replacement of public media's interconnection system.

As you begin to craft the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we urge you to continue this legacy and strongly support the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), the Ready To Learn program, and public broadcasting interconnection in FY 2018.

These federal investments are critical to public media's mission to provide unique services in the areas of education, public safety, and civic leadership to all Americans. These services have helped more than three generations of Americans learn to read, improved the math and literacy skills of high-need children, deepened American's connections to their communities and the world, and successfully brought in-depth, local news, information and cultural programming to communities large and small as well as parts of America that are underserved or otherwise unprofitable for traditional media to reach.

### **Leveraging Value**

The relatively small federal investment in public broadcasting is leveraged for even greater impact. Approximately 70 percent of funds appropriated to CPB go directly to the more than 1,500 public television and radio stations across the country, supporting approximately 20,000 local jobs, and representing the only locally licensed, controlled, and directed media in America. Every federal dollar invested in public broadcasting is seed money that is leveraged by local stations to raise six additional dollars on their own from the communities they serve.

## **Education**

Public media is committed to education and service to all Americans. Thanks to public broadcasting, Americans at all income levels and from all parts of the country—rural or urban—have access to consistent, high-quality content for free. This innovative and educational programming is readily available to children, parents, teachers, senior citizens, those pursuing their general education degree, and many others.

Public broadcasting is making especially significant contributions to children's education through the Ready To Learn program. More than 100 studies during the last several Ready To Learn competitive grant rounds have proven that this program's research-based content builds and improves the early literacy and math skills for high-need children, ages two to eight. From June 2015 through May 2016, 19.1 million children viewed Ready to Learn television content, and in calendar year 2016 there were 12.3 million page views to all Ready To Learn web games. For the 54% of American children who don't have the means or opportunity to attend preschool, Ready To Learn content provides an essential "school readiness" experience.

## **Public Safety**

Public safety is an often overlooked mission that public broadcasters have embraced with growing impact. In times of national emergency, and as active participants in the presidential alerting system, the combined strength of local public radio and television broadcast signals can reach 98% of the American population. Public television stations provide critical redundancy through the Warning, Alert, and Response Network (WARN), which sends geo-targeted Wireless Emergency Alert messages from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to cellular carriers. Many stations are also effective partners with state and local public safety, law enforcement, and first responder organizations—connecting these agencies with one another, with the public, and with vital datacasting capabilities that use the broadcast spectrum to help first responders securely send critical information and video during times of crisis. Several recent datacasting pilots conducted by the Department of Homeland Security in conjunction with public television stations have demonstrated the ability of this technology to help address the communications challenges facing the public safety community.

## **Civic Leadership**

Our public broadcasting system is a unique American institution that provides civic leadership, strengthens our local communities, and enables our constituents to have free, locally produced and focused programming as well as in-depth reporting. Public broadcasters have retained the trust of the American people in the comprehensive, transparent, objective, and civil coverage of news and public affairs, serving as essential resources for a well-informed citizenry. Public broadcasting stations are an indispensable source of information about the nation and the world, drawing on skilled journalists, documentarians, historians and local and national experts in a range of fields.

Whether it's a state high school athletic tournament, public access to sessions of a state legislature, diverse reporting from neighborhoods in every American community, or debate coverage of a local election, public broadcasting keeps America's communities informed.

In rural areas, where public broadcasting stations can be the only source of free, high-quality local programming available to families, funding from CPB can amount to more than half of some rural stations' budgets. This is a gap that cannot be closed by increased underwriting revenue or donor support.

### **Interconnection**

All of these services depend on public broadcasting's interconnection – the technological infrastructure and supporting operations that provide every local public media station across the country with access to programming from national, regional, and independent content providers. Public broadcasting's public safety work also relies on interconnection as the failsafe for presidential alerts and warnings and ensures that cellular customers can receive geo-targeted emergency alerts and warnings.

The current interconnection infrastructure for public broadcasting stations must be replaced as a result of aging technology and expiring long-term satellite leases. This multi-year project represents an essential element of public broadcasting's continued public media service to every corner of America. Thank you for your recognition of this important project and for the year one funding that was provided in FY 2016 and proposed for continuation in the FY 2017 Committee bill. Continued funding is needed in FY 2018 to proceed with the critical work that is now underway.

We urge you to continue your support for our nation's public broadcasting system by providing sufficient resources for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's two-year advance, the Ready To Learn grant program and the public broadcasting interconnection system in the FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert  
Member of Congress





Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



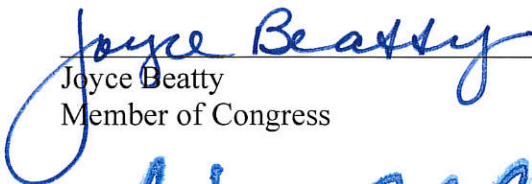
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



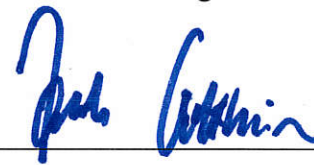
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress



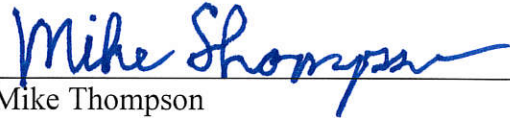
Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



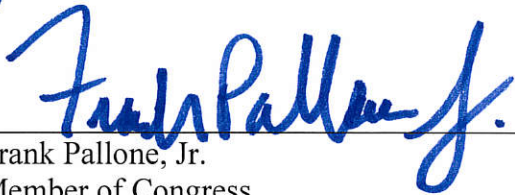
Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



Ruben J. Kihuen  
Member of Congress



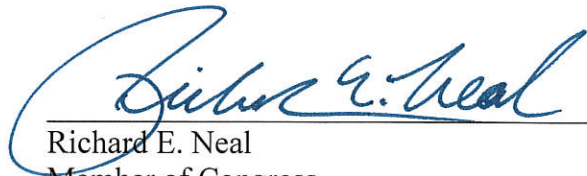
Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Ryan Costello  
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress




John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Jacky Rosen  
Member of Congress



Cedric L. Richmond  
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress



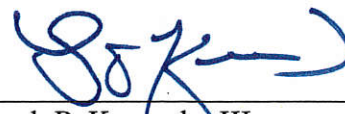
Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



Charlie Christ  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress




James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



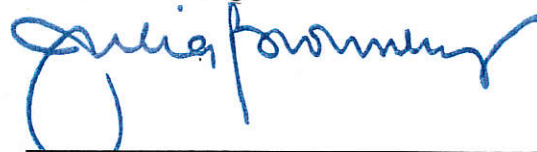
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress




Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



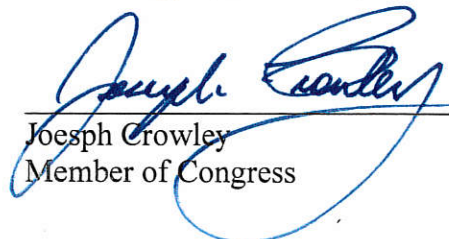
Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

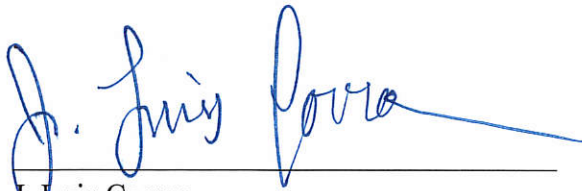


Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress

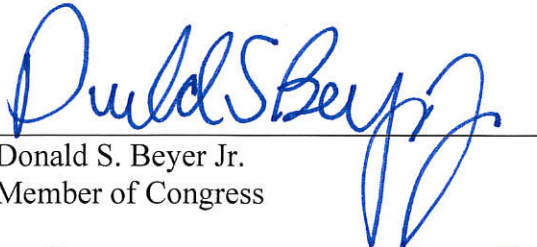




J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



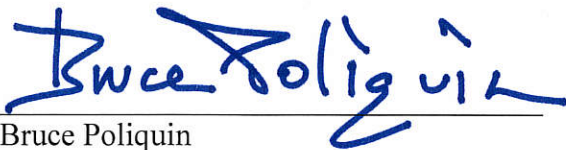
Scott Peters  
Member of Congress



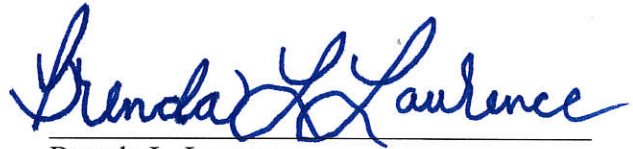
Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



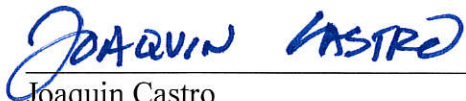
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



Bruce Poliquin  
Member of Congress



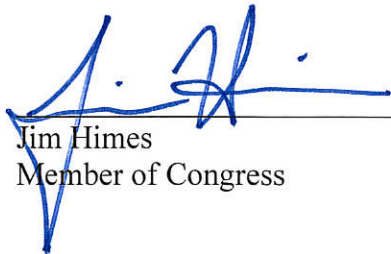
Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress



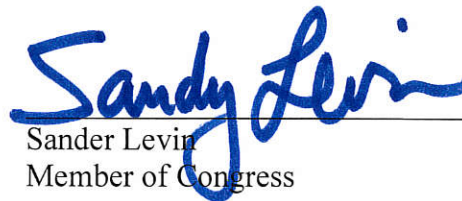
Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



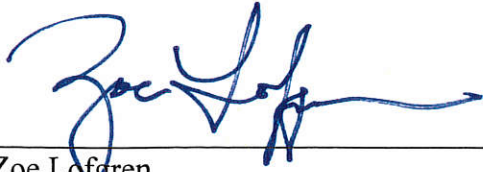
Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



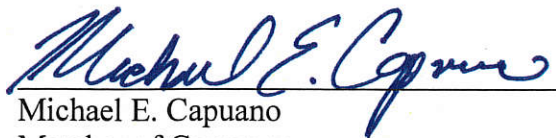
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



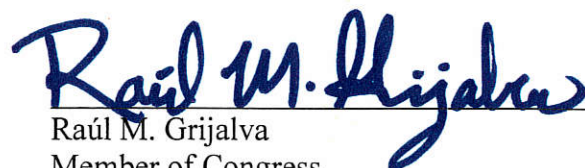
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

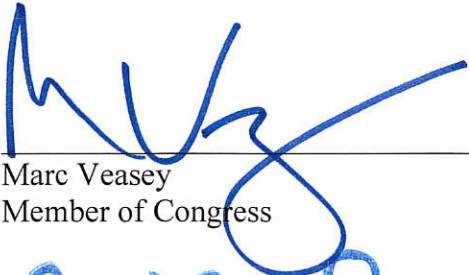


Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress





Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress



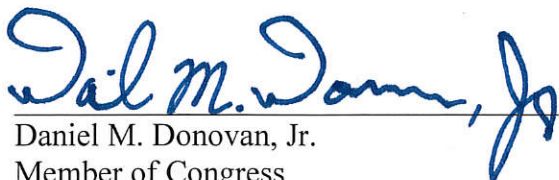
Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



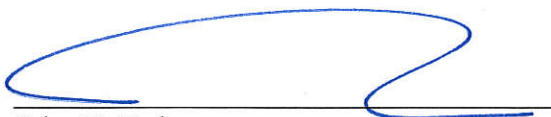
John J. Faso  
Member of Congress



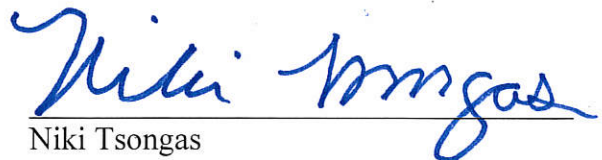
John Katko  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



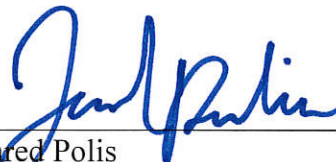
John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress



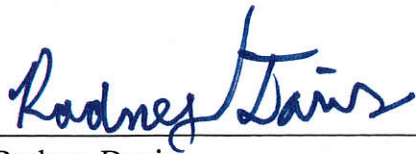
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



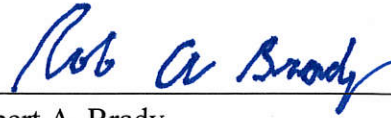
Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



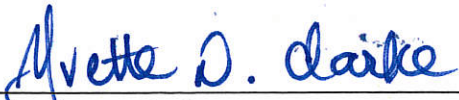
Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



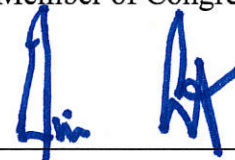
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



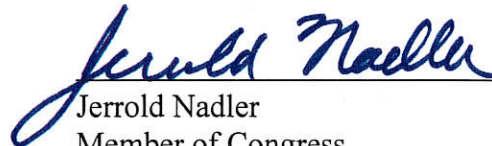
G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



David Price  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



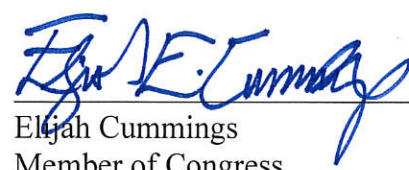
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Elijah Cummings  
Member of Congress



Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



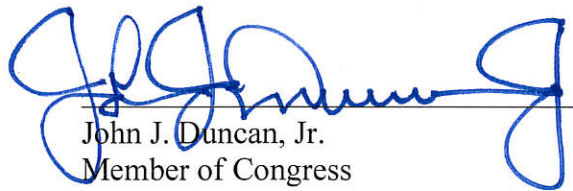
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



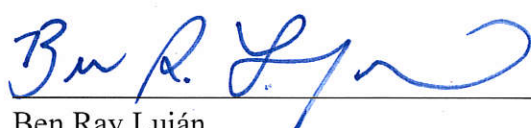
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress



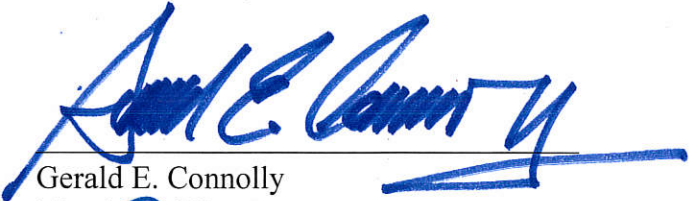
John J. Duncan, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress



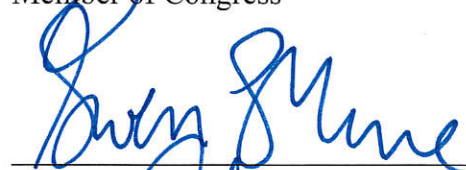
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



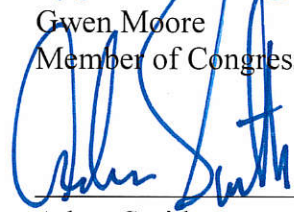
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

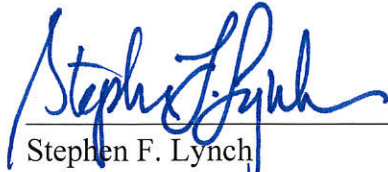




Jerry McEnerney  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



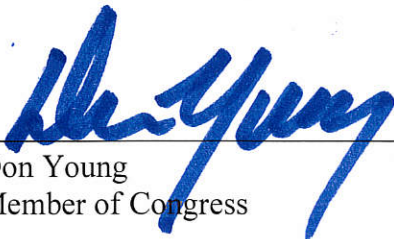
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Tim Walz  
Member of Congress



Don Young  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



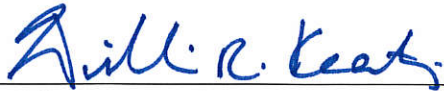
Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress



Al Green  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



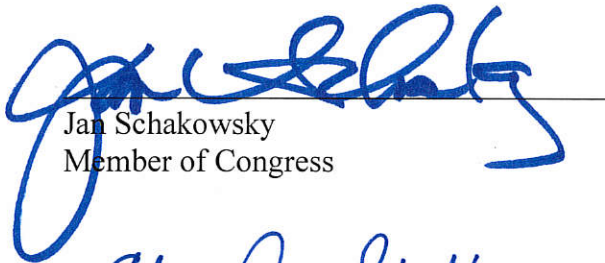
Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress



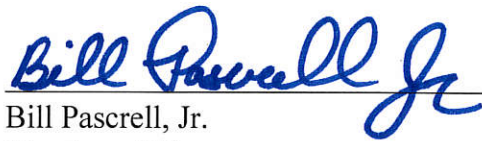
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress



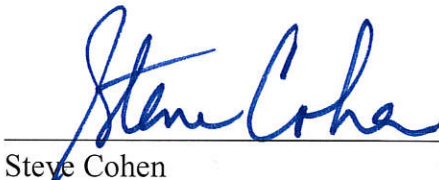
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



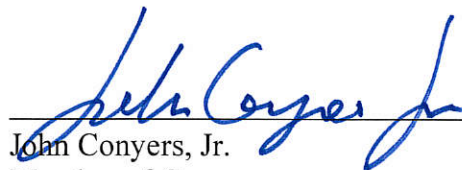
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress



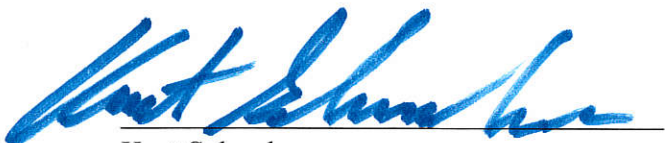
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



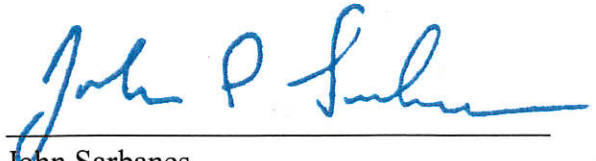
Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



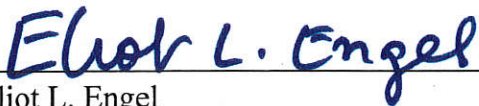
John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



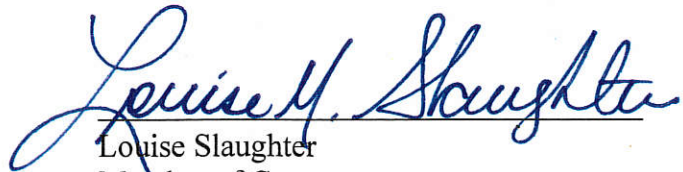
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress



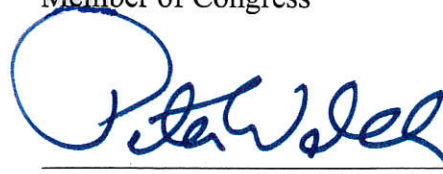
Gene Green  
Member of Congress



Will Hurd  
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke.

Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle

Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

Tim Murphy

Tim Murphy  
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin

A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress